

U.N. envoy to return to Gulf

UNITED NATIONS (A.P.) — Olof Palme of Sweden will leave next Wednesday on his fourth peace mission to end the war between Iran and Iraq. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced on Friday. Perez de Cuellar's spokesman, Francois Giuliani, told reporters that Mr. Palme, the secretary-general's special representative for Iran and Iraq, would take off from Geneva Feb. 24 with a first stop scheduled in Tehran. Mr. Palme will be accompanied by his U.N. secretary aide, Under Secretary-General Diego Cordovez of Ecuador. Mr. Palme, Socialist Democratic leader and former prime minister of Sweden, began his missions to the two warring countries as special representative to Kurt Waldheim, Perez de Cuellar's predecessor as U.N. chief.

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Arab ministers to meet in Riyadh

BAHRAIN (R) — Arab interior ministers will meet in Riyadh on Monday to consider establishing a permanent body to streamline security cooperation among Arab countries, the Saudi Press Agency reported Friday. It said that during the meeting, the fourth in the last five years, they would endorse plans to set up a council of Arab interior ministers. The proposed council would have an executive office to follow up decisions of the ministers' meetings.

PLO group denies defection

BEIRUT (A.P.) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) on Friday issued a statement denying any connection with a Palestinian defector. A spokesman for the front said Marwan Sartawi, who in an interview with the Arabic service of Israel Radio declared himself a former member of the group, was a "traitor who had sold himself to the enemy." He said the PFLP-GC had never heard of Mr. Sartawi and that he was not a member of the group. The rightist-controlled Voice of Lebanon radio station had earlier reported Mr. Sartawi, accompanied by a member of the pro-Syrian Sa'iq militia, identified as Abdul Hakim Suleiman, had crossed into the "Free Lebanon" enclave controlled by the Israeli-backed militias of renegade Lebanese army Maj. Saad Haddad and requested political asylum from Israeli authorities last week.

Heavy clashes erupt in Tripoli

BEIRUT (R) — Heavy clashes erupted Friday night between gunmen in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli, state-run Beirut Radio reported. It quoted security sources as saying that the city, about 70 km north of Beirut, was tense after clashes between "armed elements," whom it did not identify. It said that intensive contacts were under way to restore calm, but made no mention of any casualties. Various local leftist and Palestinian armed groups operate in the city. Lebanon's second largest. The all-Syrian Arab peacekeeping force said after the last clashes there two days ago that its troops had intervened to stop the fighting which started for "local reasons." Earlier in the week, seven people died in a series of shootings.

Jewish militants bomb Aeroflot office

WASHINGTON (R) — Two small bombs exploded early Friday outside the office of the Soviet airline Aeroflot and the militant Jewish Defence League (JDL) later claimed responsibility in a telephone call to the Washington Post. Police said the bombs caused no injuries and only minor damage when they went off outside Aeroflot's office door shortly before 1 a.m. The call to the Washington Post demanded release of a young Soviet woman, Mariana Tsvetkova, alleged to have been sent to a Soviet medical institution more than six years ago because she wanted to emigrate.

Nigeria foils coup attempt

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian newspapers reported Friday that a coup plot had been foiled, and a government statement said a civilian and some soldiers had been charged with inciting soldiers to mutiny.

A statement issued by the executive office of the president said a Nigerian businessman, an army officer and some soldiers had been arrested and charged with "conspiring to commit a felony by the incitement of soldiers to commit a mutinous act."

The statement, issued late Thursday night by a M.A.O. Oyedele, press secretary at the executive office of President Alhaji Shehu Shagari, said security agents had arrested the soldiers and a businessman living in Lagos.

Hassan, Gandhi meet

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had a luncheon meeting Friday with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath arrived Thursday in New Delhi on a six-day tour of India. Earlier Friday, the prince held discussions with President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy at the presidential palace.

Upon departure from Amman Airport on Thursday, they were seen off by Court Minister Amer Khammash, the Pakistani ambassador in Amman and several high-ranking officials.

Saudi Arabia cuts oil output sharply

NEW YORK (R) — Saudi Arabia has sharply cut its oil output because of weakness in world oil markets, oil industry sources said Friday.

The output of the world's largest oil exporter had dropped between seven and 7.5 million barrels daily this month, the source said.

Industry experts said that at the start of the year Saudi Arabia was producing close to its official ceiling of 8.5 million barrels per day. But by early February output was down to about eight million.

The Saudis have been under pressure from fellow members of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) to cut output in order to reduce the current world glut.

Oil company executives have been saying that unless Saudi output is allowed to fall, perhaps as low as six million barrels daily is due course, it may be impossible to halt a slide in oil prices.

London oil sources said Friday that on the free, non-contract crude oil market Saudi Arabian light crude had traded at around \$29 a barrel, compared with an official Saudi price for contract sales of \$34. One oil industry source said

Iran-Iraq contacts suggested

KUWAIT (A.P.) — A roundtable comprising Iranian and Iraqi officials and U.N. Red Cross and Kuwaiti representatives was suggested here Friday.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anbar said the idea has emerged after Kuwait received an official Iranian communication earlier this week asking that Kuwaiti territory be used as staging point for family visits to the estimated 10,000 prisoners of the Iraq-Iran war.

The paper said Mohammad Fuad Tawfiq, the Kuwaiti health ministry's legal adviser, was conducting urgent contacts on procedures and arrangements with the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and its Muslim counterpart the Red Crescent.

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NATIONAL

Prices drop for imported maize, natural soft drinks

AMMAN (Petra) — Supply Minister Ibrahim Ayyoub has issued a defence order fixing the price of each tonne of imported maize at JD 65. Another defence order fixed the retail prices of imported 170-180-millilitre cans of natural soft drinks at 90 fils. Containers of 250-260 millilitres will cost 115 fils each, one-litre bottles 460 fils and 1.27-litre cans 460 fils, retail.

A third defence order fixed the retail prices of locally produced processed soft drinks at 45 fils for a 200-millilitre can and 40 fils for a 185-millilitre can. It also fixed the retail price of locally produced natural soft drinks at 80 fils for a 250-millilitre can, 65 fils for 200-millilitre cans and 60 fils for each 185-millilitre can.

Another defence order fixed the prices of full-cream powdered milk at JD 1,660 for each 1,800-gramme can, JD 1,845 for a 2,000-gramme can, and JD 2,305 for a 2,500-gramme can. It fixed the wholesale price of all types of milk imported by the Ministry of Supply at JD 1,430 for 1,800 grammes, and the retail price at JD 1,480. The defence order also fixed the maximum price of a one-kilogramme can of full-cream powdered milk imported in stainless steel cans at 815 fils.

The announcement said the price of maize has been reduced by JD 4 for each tonne, the third reduction in four months. Thus the price of maize has been re-

duced by JD 11 a tonne in the last four months.

It added that the prices of imported natural drinks or fruit juices have been reduced by 20 to 40 fils for small cans, and 100 to 160 fils for the big can. The price of locally produced processed soft drinks has been reduced by 20 to 40 fils each.

For imported milk, the price increase did not go beyond an international increase in the prices, amounting to 0.05 per cent.

West Germany stresses intent to continue Jordan assistance

AMMAN (J.T.) — German-Jordanian government negotiations took place here from Feb. 14 to 16 on future development cooperation. On Feb. 15, West German Minister for Economic Cooperation Rainer Oesfeld made the following statement in Bonn:

"The Federal Republic of Germany and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have cooperated closely in the development policy sector for more than two decades now. During this period the two countries have been quite successful in their joint endeavours. The railroad to Aqaba, and the port of this city, were improved;

Land, money given to force

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian citizens around the country continued Thursday and Friday to hold rallies to express support of His Majesty King Hussein's initiative allowing Jordanian volunteers to join the Yarmouk Force, and have continued to make contributions to the Yarmouk Force.

Contributions made by various banks, companies, establishments and citizens on Thursday totalled JD 29,420. Contributions collected at a popular rally in Ramtha totalled JD 38,384, and several Ramtha youths announced that they would volunteer for the Yarmouk Force.

A popular rally was also held in Marka, where participants contributed a total of JD 56,000 in addition to pieces of land to be used by the force. At a popular rally in Fuheis, participants contributed a total of JD 11,000 to the Yarmouk Force.

Participants in a popular rally in Na'our and adjoining villages on Friday contributed some JD 16,000.

'First step' taken towards eliminating service cars

AMMAN (Petra) — Traffic Department Director Ahmad Abu Al Su'oud announced on Friday that taxi offices in Amman would be allowed to add five cars each to their fleets.

Col. Abu Al Su'oud said the decision to increase the taxi fleets, which are limited by law, was a "first step" towards eliminating the service, or fixed-route, taxis now operating all over Amman.

He said because of the increase in the number of buses, several service drivers are no longer making enough profit. Service taxis will be allowed to join taxi offices, he said.

Col. Abu Al Su'oud said no attempt was being made to prevent the service taxis from operating. However, they would eventually disappear as a result of the increasing efficiency of the buses. He said drivers would have the choice of whether or not to stay in business, and that they have rendered a great service to the capital.

Senator Glenn ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — U.S. Senator John Glenn and his delegation left Amman Thursday afternoon at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan during which they met with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Sen. Glenn also met with high-ranking Jordanian officials and heard an explanation of Jordan's stand on the Middle East issue.

Knoxville World's Fair agent arrives for Amman contacts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Engineer Raja Jubran, a representative of the 1982 World's Fair, arrived in Amman on Thursday. The 1982 World's Fair will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee from May 1 to Oct. 31, he said. It will be the first official international fair to be held in the southeast of the United States, and the first to be held in the U.S. for eight years.

Twenty-one countries besides the United States have already announced that they will have displays at the fair, whose theme will be Energy Turns the World. The most prominent among them will be the People's Republic of China, which will participate for the first time in an international fair. Several Arab countries will also participate.

Mr. Jubran, during his stay in Jordan, will be meeting some of the prominent people who would be responsible for a Jordanian participation in the fair, and with agencies that will facilitate visits by Jordanians to the fair.

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Mr.

NATIONAL

Aqaba water supply project comes on stream

Water from desert wells for Jordan's booming port

By Steve Ross
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When His Majesty King Hussein opened the first phase of the Aqaba water supply project at Qa' Al Disi on Thursday, years of careful study and planning bore fruit. The ceremony in the middle of the Wadi Rum desert marked the culmination of an international effort to utilise the scarce water resources of the south in the best manner possible, to meet the needs of a rapidly growing, ever-thirstier port city.

The project inaugurated on Thursday has four main elements: The wellfield and headworks complex at Qa' Al Disi; the trunk main from the wells to Aqaba; the distribution network within the town, and the trunk distribution main from Aqaba to the plant of the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (JFIC) at Wadi Two, 17 kilometres south of Aqaba. The Disi-Aqaba main and that to the fertiliser plant total 92 kilometres in length.

Mr. John Reid, resident director for Howard Humphreys — the British consultants on the project — told the Jordan Times that in accordance with policy of "staging," certain elements of the project had been brought to points where they would be sufficient to meet present needs, but could be further developed as needed. Thus, while the trunk main to Aqaba is capable of handling 17.5 million cubic metres of water a year, at first it will carry only 10 million. This will be drawn out of seven existing boreholes drilled in the current stage; Seven more will be required to bring the flow up to the pipe's capacity.

Also staged, Mr. Reid said, are the reservoirs, the Aqaba distribution network and the Qa' Al Disi power station. In addition to a 9,000-cubic-metre reservoir immediately north of Aqaba and a 4,500-cubic-metre one at the JFIC plant site to provide reserve storage and absorb pressure fluctuations, the town has two reservoirs totalling 4,750 cubic metres of capacity. These serve a low-level and a high-level supply zone, with a reticulation system comprising 31 kilometres of ductile iron pipes.

The power station at the wellfield site now has four 550-kilowatt diesel generators — three main and one backup. These provide electricity to drive the pumps submerged in the boreholes, two pumps in each hole. Also built at

Examining the aquifer

The water produced by the new wellfield will be added to the flow from existing wells in the Wadi Yutm, between Al Disi and Aqaba. Those wells until the present project came onstream, supplied two million cubic metres of water a year to cover all the needs of Aqaba and the surrounding area. When the Disi wells reach

their full planned potential, the total flow will thus become 19.5 million cubic metres a year, supplying Aqaba, Quweira, the south coast and villages in the area.

Howard Humphreys was asked in 1976 to perform a hydrogeological study of the aquifers in both the Wadi Yutm and the Disi area. It was as a result of this study that the consultants decided to proceed with the development of the catchment at Qa' Al Disi, a site within the Disi region.

Mr. Reid calls a "conservative" estimate, the site was thought able to produce between 17 million and 20 million cubic metres a year for at least 50 years without excessive drawdown, or change in the aquifer.

Mr. Reid stresses that the aquifer, or water-bearing stratum, is the core of any water project, and must be examined very carefully. It is thought that the ground water flow under Disi originates in the south, in the Umm Sahn mountains along the Saudi Arabian border. Flowing in a northeasterly direction, the water hits a sort of natural underground dam, the Karaway Dyke, which runs from northwest to southeast just beyond Qa' Al Disi. The new wellfield intercepts a large portion of the water flowing around the northerly end of the dyke.

Mr. Reid says he thinks it likely that the aquifer's true potential at the wellfield site is substantially greater than 17-20 million cubic metres a year, and could be as high as 25 million. Beyond that, he says, one could also get much more water — "more than twice this amount" — by extending the wellfield and drilling more boreholes to the east, along the Karaway Dyke.

But all such projections are governed by drawdown, or the cone of depression. Explaining this concept, Mr. Reid said that a water surface which in its natural state would be relatively level is "drawn down" by the extraction of water over a period of time, so that a hollow or depression is formed. The depth of this hollow depends on the rate of pumping and on the qualities of the sandstone formations in the aquifer, such factors as transmissivity and storage coefficient.

By analysing all available information, including data obtained during the construction of the Disi wellfield, the consultants made predictions of the amount of drawdown that could be expected at Qa' Al Disi. Mr. Reid says that

while in general, the ground water is now about 100 metres below the surface, it could drop as much as another 80 metres after 50 years of pumping. Howard Humphreys is now doing a computer study to re-rate the aquifer and get a more accurate assessment of its potential.

The seven existing boreholes are 400 metres deep, and are cased or screeded for the full depth. They measured 219 millimetres across for the upper half, and 171 millimetres in diameter below that. The two pumps which will draw water out of each hole will have a lifetime of 15 years each. Mr. Reid said — accordingly they have been placed low enough in the holes that they will still be under water within 15 years, according to the expected degree of drawdown.

Demand projections

The timing of any expansion in the wellfield and other elements of the project depends on the needs of the area it serves. In 1977, along with its study of the aquifer, Howard Humphreys did detailed work on demand in the Aqaba area. Taking various variables into account and adjusting estimates for changes in each variable, the consultants estimated the city's demand for water in the year 2005 at somewhere between 42 million and 13 million cubic metres a year.

Estimates based on different values for each variable in demand—industrial, domestic or agricultural—ended on different figures somewhere between those two extremes.

At the time those estimates were made, the consultants had "no idea of how fast Aqaba would grow," Mr. Reid said. Nor did anyone else. But based on more recent information, he now thinks the demand figure will lie somewhere between 23 million and 35 million cubic metres a year. Domestic consumption represents about half of that figure.

Mr. Reid estimates that Aqaba will need the full 17.5 million capacity of the project within 10 years, which means work should start on its implementation about five years before that. This projection, however, depends on steady and continued expansion of major users like the JFIC plant.

Howard Humphreys is also providing consulting services on the Aqaba sewage and sewage treatment scheme, on which Mr. Reid says work will probably start

in about two months' time. The scheme envisages the collection of waste from the existing sewer network, the construction of a new main network, a pumping station to lift waste to a treatment plant and the construction of that plant, at a site in the Wadi Araba, some four kilometres from the coast.

The plant will be capable of treating 9,000 cubic metres of effluent a day in its first stage, Mr. Reid said. The ultimate capacity in the scheme is twice that.

The sewerage project will be supported by a \$7.5 million loan from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), with the balance covered by the Jordanian government. A U.S. embassy official told the Jordan Times that three firms were now involved in negotiations for the contract. They include a Jordanian, a Turkish and a South Korean company, he said; but he declined to name the parties due to the sensitivity of negotiations.



King Hussein cuts the inaugural ribbon at Qa' Al Disi Thursday (Petra photo)

Tool for emancipation, development

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday signed the Declaration of Mexico on Informatics, Development and Peace. The declaration was signed in Mexico City on June 23, 1981 by Mexican President Lopez Portillo as a "witness of rank" and representatives of many states, including Jordan. Prince Hassan was invited to sign the declaration as an "Arab and international intellectual" concerned with the questions of information, peace and development. Copies of the declaration are deposited at the Mexican president's office and headquarters of the Ronie-based Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics.

Following is the full text of the Mexico Declaration:

1. In the course of the 1960s and the 1970s important technological advances were made in the field of electronics which have given a new dimension to informatics and its use in economic and social development. The use of these new techniques in informatics and telecommunications for the widening of knowledge, the improvement of management and the increase of productivity creates a new and important factor of disequilibrium between developed and developing countries. The decade of the 80s is a period of challenge and contradictions. On the one hand, science has greatly extended our understanding of the world and of society while a burgeoning of technology offers enormous possibilities for improving the standard of living and quality of life of all people. On the other hand, mankind is faced with increasingly complex problems which may condition its survival. These trends are interacting in a way which increases tensions within and between societies to the point of endangering peace. Informatics can play a critical role in lowering these tensions.

2. Among the problems raised are: the deadlock of the North-South dialogue; growing economic and technological disparities; wide-spread poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease; the arms race; the inadequacy of current approaches to development; the inability to fully master and effectively harness this great potential of science and technology for a substantial improvement in the conditions of life; and the quantitative and qualitative waste of human resources.

3. Recent technological breakthroughs and others which are expected are creating unprecedented opportunities for the betterment of the human condition, but portend as well negative trends which need to be checked. Informatics, through its wide possibilities of application in almost all sectors of human activity, offers a powerful tool for the management of technological development, and opens up new possibilities for cultural and educational development. Here lies the challenge: wisely used with humanitarian understanding it can contribute greatly to the solution of fundamental problems and hence to the establishment of peace. Applied in a technocratic and excessively centralised manner, it can increase the complexity of problems, rendering them more difficult to solve. Informatics is thus becoming more and more an instrument of power which affects the political, economic, social and cultural spheres nationally and worldwide and hence is of immediate concern to decision-makers at all

levels.

4. One of the important consequences of these changes is the redistribution of productive and service facilities on a global basis which will pose a series of complex issues for development, industrialisation and development, thus calling for special consideration. Among other things, international debates on regional transborder data flows and their impact on the movement of labour and technological concentration.

5. Informatics is an important ingredient as well as a concept of development. Its mastering implies an endogenous and autonomous approach to development, an increasing reliance on human resources, a greater emphasis on its scientific and technological dimensions and an awareness of the implications for cultural identity, diversity, informatics to the extent it could become an effective instrument for promoting organisational, managerial and administrative structures, can assist in the solution of problems of development.

6. Due to the fact that many areas of informatics require advanced technological and economic resources it is important that a greater coordination and integration is effected at sub-regional and regional level.

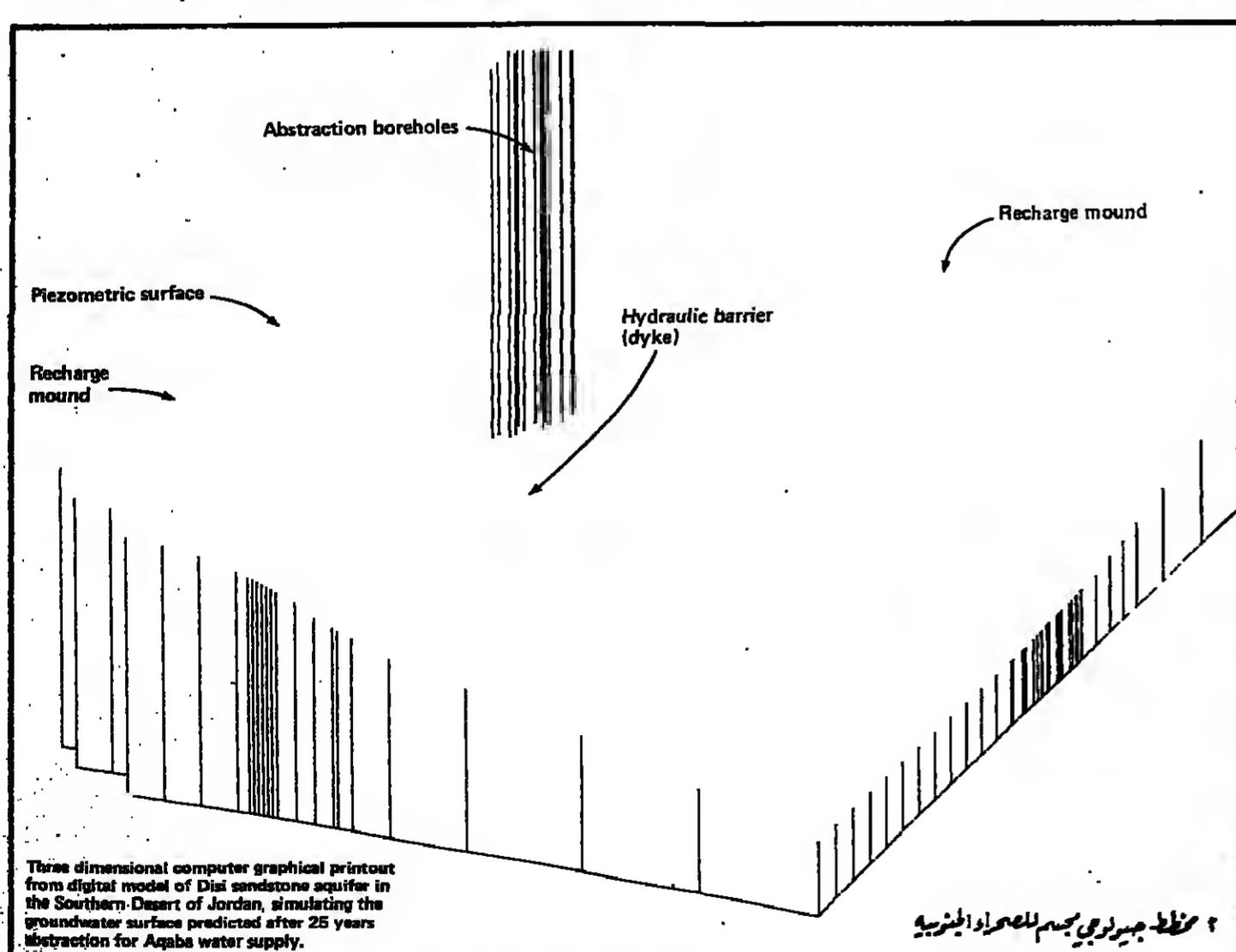
7. The capacity to assimilate and evolve technology depends on the political will to adopt national strategies and policies and enhance international cooperation, permitting the development of adequate capacities and infrastructures for technology and management and high quality training facilities.

8. Effective use of informatics requires the mastering of the capacity to generate and process information. The most important element in this respect is not only the tool itself but also the content of the information and the economic and socio-cultural context within which they arise.

9. The traditional forms of regional and international cooperation are insufficiently flexible and imaginative to meet the new needs. Hence new forms of cooperation must be urgently devised so as to ensure greater participation and enable the anticipation of problems before they arise.

10. The right to information, such as it is recognised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international treaties, is acquired, due to technological evolution, a scope which is qualitatively and quantitatively different from that which prevailed when they were adopted. The concept of the "right to information" has to be reinterpreted in the light of changes due to informatics.

11. Informatics, if developed in the interest of all mankind, can serve as an instrument of emancipation and development fully preserving the right of individuals to privacy and self-fulfillment. Only thus can it effectively contribute to universal prosperity, human dignity, social justice and ultimately to world peace. The World Conference on Strategies and Policies for Informatics (SPIN III) to be held in Havana, Cuba in June 1983 offers a propitious occasion for the promotion of the objectives set out in the present Declaration.



Computer projection of drawdown at Qa' Al Disi after 25 years of pumping

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibition

* Exhibition of Iraqi books on political, historical and literary subjects, and other publications at the University of Jordan Hall. Ends today.

Play

* Arsene and Old Lace, a comedy, performed by the Amman Players at the Ministry of Education theatre in Jabal Luweibeh at 8 p.m. Ends today.

Today's Weather

It will be cloudy and warmer, with southeasterly fresh winds, gusting at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Overnight low	Daytime high
Amman	5	17
Aqaba	10	25
Deserts	4	18
Jordan Valley	12	24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

SHERATON BUFFETS

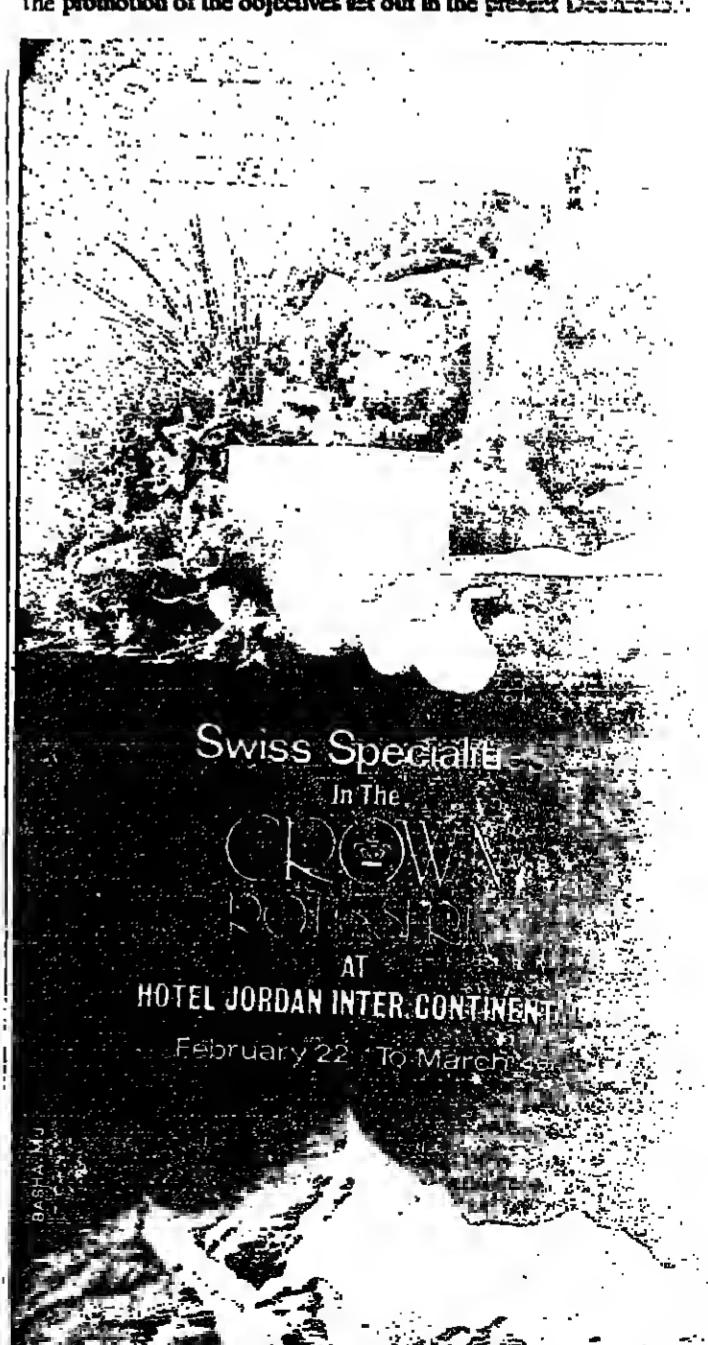
Friday
Luncheon Buffet
in AL ALALI

Saturday
GERMAN Dinner BUFFET
in AL MADAFA

Sunday
Luncheon Buffet
In AL MADAFA Rest.



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No thanks, friends

THE CONTINUING desire of the United States to explain its policy in the Middle East only heightens the basic flaws in that policy. Note, for example, the two statements made in the past few days by President Reagan and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger. The president said his plans to deal with the escalating arms race in the Middle East included his support for the Camp David accords and efforts to persuade "moderate" Arabs to join the Camp David process. Mr. Weinberger, who because of protocol has to be less perplexing and incoherent than his boss, said that the United States has to extend the hand of friendship to several countries in the Middle East, and not only to Israel. These two men are no doubt sincere in what they say, but they fail to understand that what they propose as the solution to the problem is, in fact, the problem itself. The only constant element in American policy in the Middle East since 1948 has been an unwavering commitment to the existence of Israel, regardless of how much Arab land Israel occupies and how many times it uses American weapons and money to attack its Arab neighbours. For the highest officials of the United States now to assert in harmony that they wish to develop ties with both Israelis and Arabs, while the unresolved Palestine issue remains the only real contentious issue between Arabs and Israelis, is a performance that would warrant a C- at best from a freshman logic course at any university in the United States.

We have recently seen the apogee of American political sophistication in bilateral relations in the disintegration of the Shah's regime in Iran. Is the American leadership anxious to see that performance repeated with Arab regimes (or Central American regimes, for that matter) who are willing to deal with the Americans on their own fantasy terms? This is the only logical consequence of what the Americans are doing. If they do not care to see the full reality of it, the people of the Arab World see it very clearly, and thus reply: Thanks, but no thanks.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Dignity is here to stay

AL RA'IL: Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon has threatened any Arab countries that seek to supply their armies with more weapons with deterrent strikes. This threat, which came in a television interview, was as admission by Sharon that Israel was no longer capable of keeping up with the arms race with the Arab countries.

What Sharon said was the most serious threat to the Arabs, because it is a provocative attempt to keep Israel superior and to keep the Arab armament under Israel's control. This frank and candidly means that Israel has decided to attack any Arab country if its armament capacity goes beyond the limits allowed by Israel, and that the Arabs are now threatened with Israeli blows to abort their strength.

Thus the aim of the Israeli strategy announced by Sharon is to prevent the Arabs from building up their strength by dealing blows to them to keep the Israeli military superiority in the area.

This raises the question whether there is any relationship between Sharon's threats and the American assurances to keep the Israeli military superiority in terms of quality and quantity, and whether Israel would embark on a military adventure before its final withdrawal from Sinai on April 25.

In all cases, the strategy announced by Sharon means that Israel has decided to wage war on the Arabs, even if the Arabs do not start the war. The Arabs should take such a thing seriously and, accordingly, act with the same seriousness dictated by the situation.

The issue facing the Arabs now is no longer restricted to regaining their usurped rights as was the case before, but has gone beyond that to involve the defence of their sovereignty against the domination of Israel, which wants to dictate to them in matters related to the armament of their own armed forces. Furthermore, the question also involves the very security of the Arabs, publicly threatened by the Israeli defence minister.

The Arabs should confront the challenge facing them and save the area from Israel's domination and regain their usurped rights. Needless to say, all this cannot be achieved by resolutions and protests, but by struggle of the fighters.

Israel is now making the assumption that Arabs have abandoned their dignity, and is building its calculations and decisions accordingly. The reply to this is to punish the aggressors and the arrogant people and to present the evidence that Arab dignity is still there and will continue to be there. The Arabs will never give in to the Israeli domination and the adventurers and their allies will pay the price of their adventures.

Partners in crime

AL DUSTOUR: What President Reagan said in his recent letter to Menachem Begin on his country's continued commitment to secure Israeli military superiority in terms of quality and quantity is of serious implications.

A pledge by a superpower like the United States to keep the Israeli military superiority without any condition, while Israel occupies the territories of Arab states, means that Washington is a partner with the aggressor state whether in occupying the territories of other states or in its threats to commit further aggression against all the Arab countries.

We could have understood such a position if it was coupled with a clear American commitment binding Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories according to the U.N. resolutions, to stop the construction of settlements, and abide by international laws until a comprehensive settlement of the dispute is reached. But for the United States to make such a pledge while Israel is declaring its intentions to devour the occupied Arab territories, to evacuate its residents, and threatens to occupy new Arab lands, really means that the United States is authorising Israel to use American-made weapons for the purpose of aggression and aggression. This is tantamount to an American partnership in all Israel's designs and aggression in the Arab area.

The American declaration to guarantee Israel's superiority without any conditions dictates on the Arab states, particularly the Gulf states, to review their policy of purchasing weapons from the United States, because it is unreasonable for these states to buy weapons from a country declaring in advance that it will guarantee Israel's military superiority in terms of quality and quantity.

War over Latin America

Hugh O'Shaughnessy reports on the silent trade war being fought for a share of the Latin American market.

The constant silent war between the Arabs and Israel for trade advantage and political influence in Latin America is hotting up.

In a few weeks' time, Mr. Gideon Pat, the Israeli trade minister, will start a South American tour to Venezuela, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil. With him will go a team of leading Israeli industrialists with a brief to open new markets for Israeli products at a time when Israel is becoming worried about the reliability of its principal trading partner, the EEC.

Israel sees Latin America as an increasingly important trading partner while they face a squeeze in Europe. With the impending accession of Spain and Portugal to the EEC, Israel will clearly have an increasingly tough job selling its citrus and other farm products to the EEC. Although Latin America is hardly a market for such items, it could absorb more Israeli manufacturers and thus help Israel's overall trade account.

To help this process, Zim, the Israeli shipping line, for example, is to experiment with a service to South America's Pacific ports, while Israeli banks have been expediting in the region.

Israel has in the past had much success as a supplier to modern

weapons to Latin America. There is no doubt that the Israelis would like to increase this trade.

Over the past decade, Israel has taken advantage of decisions by European governments and the Carter administration to hold back arms supplies from some Latin American regimes because of their violations of human rights.

For instance, Israeli companies have sold Arava aircraft, capable of carrying cargo and dropping paratroopers, to air forces from Guatemala to Bolivia. They have supplied missiles to the Pinochet government in Santiago and were delivering weapons to General Somoza in Nicaragua almost up to the day of his overthrow in 1979.

Today, their relationship to the Guatemalan government, which is still looked on askance by Washington, is particularly close. In exchange for Israeli arms, it is expected that Guatemala will become a small but useful regular supplier of oil to a country which often has difficulty in getting supplies.

Israel is also hoping to sell KFIR jet fighters — its version of the Mirage 5 — to Ecuador and other countries. Last year, the Reagan administration lifted the U.S. ban on Israel's use of General Electric engines in aircraft bound for some South American markets.

The advent of the Sandinista government in Nicaragua was a

blow to the Israelis. It not only looked unsympathetically on Tel Aviv, as the former Somoza regime's arms supplier, but also lost no time in seeking money and friendship in the Arab World.

But the Israelis are hoping to recoup that loss by pushing arms sales to other embattled Central American governments, perhaps selling the hardware which Congress and public opinion in the U.S. prevent Washington itself from supplying.

Apart from arms Israel, as a non-regional member of the Inter-American Development Bank, is also hoping to cash in on large aviation, construction and agricultural projects where Israeli technicians have been giving important assistance in many countries. Israeli exports to the region, despite recent growth, are not massive — some \$140 million in 1980.

The financial, commercial and political muscle is more on the Arab side. Through Latin America there are large and influential communities of people of Arab and notably Palestinian descent, which together are estimated to comprise perhaps 5 per cent of the region's population.

What was at the beginning of the century a small immigration of labourers or petty entrepreneurs has now blossomed into a generation which includes generals, ministers and Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, the President of Colombia.

The financial, commercial and political muscle is more on the Arab side. Through Latin America there are large and influential communities of people of Arab and notably Palestinian descent, which together are estimated to comprise perhaps 5 per cent of the region's population.

At the same time, according to Aralbank, Arab banks provided more money for Latin America through the Eurocurrency markets than they did to Africa, Asia and the Pacific combined. The provided \$10 billion for the region, compared with \$8.9 billion to the other areas in the 17 months to last May.

Aralbank has become a symbol of a fast growing relationship between the two areas. It counts a number of powerful Arab fin-

ancial institutions, including the Arab Banking Corporation of Bahrain and the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, among its shareholders.

Mr. Werner Makowski, one of its two general managers, reporting record earnings of \$20.2 million last year, said recently in London: "Arab finance is today interested in much more than real estate in Latin America. It is looking to help to develop the big natural resources that the region contains."

This increasing economic and financial relationship is being reflected in political attitudes among Latin American governments. Whereas, in immediate post-war years, the Latin American vote at the United Nations, often under U.S. prompting, was regularly pro-Israel, today the pattern is less predictable.

Not only are the communists and left-wing states such as Cuba and Nicaragua pro-Arab, but the states which have much to lose from Arab hostility, such as Brazil, are modifying their enthusiasm for Israel. Simultaneously the Palestine Liberation Organisation is extending its diplomatic activities throughout the region.

In future, the Israelis may have to run very hard if they are not to lose friends and influence in Latin America.

— Financial Times news feature

Want some Candu?

By John Rogers

Reuter

OTTAWA — A change in policy by the Canadian government has added Egypt and other Arab countries to the list of badly-needed potential export markets for the country's heavy-water Candu nuclear reactors.

But any sales to the Middle East are several years away, officials of the contract-starved nuclear industry say.

Immediate hopes are pinned on selling four Candus to Mexico and three to South Korea. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has invited both countries to add political weight to the bids.

At the same time, these prospects have revived argument over whether Canada, which prides itself on its role as a peacemaker, should be selling nuclear reactors — despite stringent safeguards — to anyone.

The government ended a six-year-old refusal to sell Candus to the unstable Middle East when Energy Minister Marc Lalonde toured Egypt, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia last month.

Egypt and Canada initiated an agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation this week, paving the way for possible future Egyptian purchases of Candus and Canadian uranium fuel them.

The signing is not due until May, but hostile reaction from the May, but hostile reaction from the small but vocal anti-nuclear lobby was swift.

Lobby spokesman Gordon Edwards said Canada was being irresponsible in selling more reactors "at a time when the threat of nuclear war is increasing... and especially to try to sell them in the tinder box of the Middle East."

The key to unlocking Canada's 1976 ban on nuclear sales to the area was Egypt's ratification of the United Nations nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) last year.

External Affairs Minister Mark MacGuigan said Canada saw Egypt as "the principal peacemaker" in the Middle East, but said Canada was also willing to consider peaceful nuclear cooperation with other countries in the region.

Government spokesman requirements out Israel as a potential buyer because it has not signed the NPT. They also dismiss suggestions that the anticipated sales to Egypt should worry Israel, because of Canada's safeguards requirements.

Though no early sales to the Middle East are in sight, the accord with Egypt boosted morale for the Candu's manufacturer, the government-owned Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL).

It is three years since the company signed an agreement with a foreign buyer, Romania, and Canadian companies are frustrated by Romanian delays in signing follow-up equipment contracts to get construction started.

The fiercely-contested Mexican contract, which could be worth more than two billion dollars to Canada, is not due to be awarded until the end of this year.

One Candu reactor in South Korea, at Wolong, is on schedule for completion by the end of December. But the bigger new Korean deal for which Canada is hoping will not be decided until late next year, the sources said.

Canada tightened its safeguards requirements after India used Canadian-supplied equipment to explode an atomic bomb in 1974, and Pakistan refused to sign the NPT.

Spokesman for the government and the industry reject claims by the anti-nuclear lobby that Candus — which use natural uranium as fuel rather than enriched uranium, which is needed for weapons — can be used to fuel nuclear weapons.

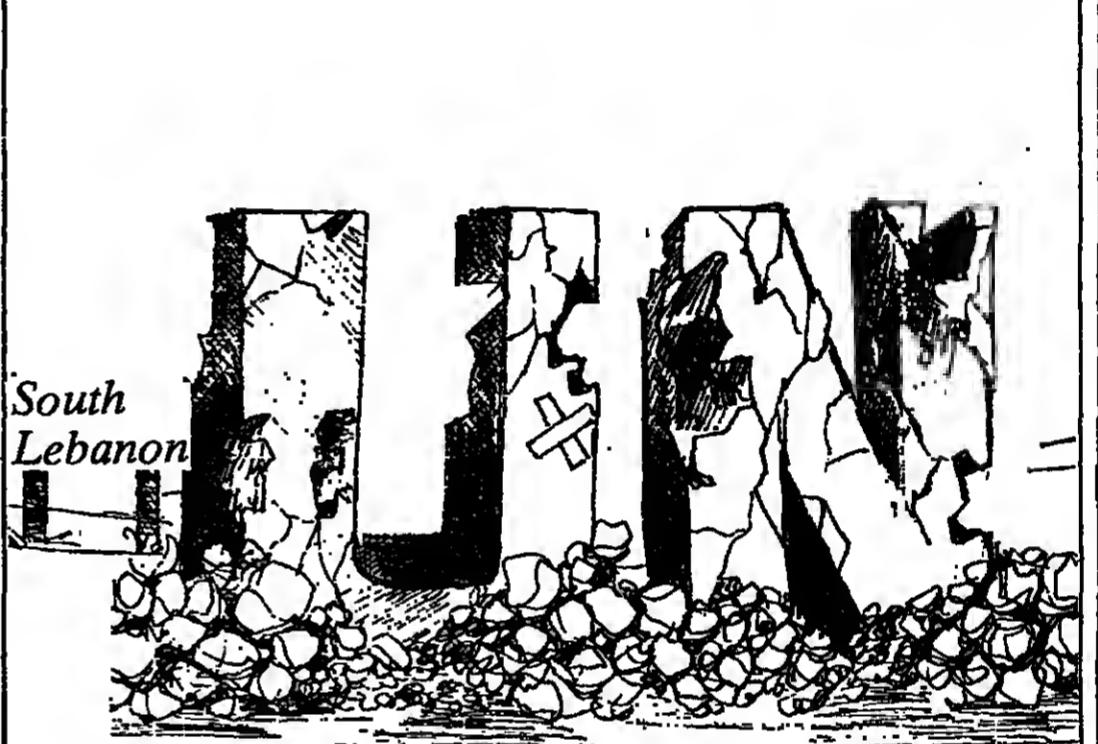
"They could not be adapted to make nuclear fuel by a country which accepts our requirements. It would be impossible," says Roy MacLaren, Mr. Lalonde's parliamentary secretary.

"Another consideration would be that, if the intention is to build a nuclear weapon, there are cheaper ways," he adds.

But anti-nuclear activities by a country which wanted bombs and nuclear electricity could use the Candu for both. They say the fact that the Candu can be refuelled without being closed, unlike light-water reactors, makes it impossible to safeguard.

"The spent fuel, containing plutonium, can be removed from the reactor core and diverted for military purposes at any time, without warning," says Dr. Edwards.

The anti-nuclear lobby says Canada should not be selling what it calls "ruthless military dictatorships" in Argentina and South Korea, both of which are building Candus, while the government says they have signed all the treaties and must be trusted.



Greek economy: Optimism v reality

By Neocosmos Tzallas

Reuter

ATHENS — Four months after coming to power in Greece, the socialist government is having difficulties putting flesh on the bones of its ambitious economic and social programme, economists say.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou has said he believes Greece can be nudged out of recession without adverse effects on the balance of payments or the already high 25 per cent inflation rate through greater control over key sectors of the economy and narrowing the gap between the high and low paid.

But economists say the government's failure to spell out specific details of how these policies will be implemented is causing uncertainty among potential foreign and domestic investors.

Economic realities have also forced Mr. Papandreou to back-pedal on plans to "socialise" a large part of private industry, they said.

They believe that lack of a clear-cut economic policy at home and the determination of the government to follow an independent foreign policy, most of the time out of step with its European Economic Community (EEC) partners and the United States, could add to its difficulties.

The RPR is drifting to the right partly as a result of an influx of new recruits, many of whom are from the extreme right with its tradition of violent agitation against the communists. As a populist figure, Mr. Chirac has more chance than other leaders of neutralising the far right's influence.

But his appeals for moderation are a recognition of how close to the surface lies the danger of political violence.

Economists say Greece is expected to have a budget deficit of 150 billion drachma (\$2.5 billion) this year. At the same time, according to the bank of Greece, total foreign borrowing needs will rise

to about \$1.6 billion from 1.2 billion last year.

The government's task is also being complicated by what have come to be known as the "green guards." This is the name given to zealous of the ruling party who, according to Opposition Leader Evangelos Averoff-Tossitas, have established a reign of terror as they interfere in the ministries and state organisations.

Named after the colour of the Panhellenic Socialist movement (PASOK) banner, the green guards are reported to insist that the party line is followed firmly by ministers and the civil service.

So instead of the much-vaunted first 100 days programme which the Greeks were told would cure many of their ills, the country's first socialist government has so far announced only a series of palliative measures to cope with specific problems.

These measures include tighter controls on credit to industry and commerce, the narrowing of the gap between high and low income groups by indexing wage increases to inflation, and introduction of tax adjustments that will benefit those earning less than 80,000 drachma (\$1,330) a month.

Mr. Papandreou has said credit controls will aim to prevent savings being channelled into speculative investment.

The future direction of bank credit, he said, will be set by the government and implemented by a reorganised Bank of Greece, to ensure that lending conforms to government economic policy and financing regulations. The state already controls about 80 per cent of the banking sector, and, through these banks, influences the greater part of the economy.

About 20 branches of foreign banks here and three Greek private banks are to be closely scrutinised so that their activities do

— Financial Times news feature

ECONOMY

Iraq calls for urgent OPEC meeting

MANAMA (A.P.) — Iraq pre-
dicted Friday a call for an em-
ergency Organisation of Petroleum
Exporting Countries (OPEC)
conference before the end of this
month to "adopt suitable mea-
sures" against Iran's undercutting
of OPEC benchmark prices.

"The Iranian moves endanger
OPEC and everything it worked
for in past years," oil minister and
Iraqi Revolution Command Coun-
cil Member Taieb Abdel Karim
told the Iraqi news agency.

He warned that unless the pro-

jected meeting came out with
"solutions guaranteeing the rights
of all OPEC members" Iraq is
"well capable of adopting mea-
sures to protect its own interests."

"Our call for an emergency
meeting emanated from our ext-
reme concern that the present sit-
uation must be dealt with in the
correct OPEC framework," Mr.
Abdel Karim said. "It does not
mean at all that we do not possess
the ability to adopt on our own the
right decisions capable of guar-
anteeing Iraq's rights," he added

without elaboration.

The Iraqi minister accused bet-
ter enemy Iran of pursuing a
policy of price reductions, easy
credit and barter terms "in a des-
perate attempt to increase oil ex-
ports and prop up its collapsing
economy."

"The current slump in oil demand
and can not justify individual and
futile attempts (at increasing
crude sales), which only serve to
hurt committed OPEC members
and to create unnecessary confu-
sion in the oil market," Mr.

Abdel Karim said.

He said that industrialised na-
tions were using their tremendous
reserves of petroleum to threat-
en the very existence of OPEC
at a time of stagnant market con-
ditions."

"Because of all this, Iraq has
called for an extraordinary OPEC
ministerial meeting before the end
of this month to consult on current
conditions and indicators, with a
view to coordinating stands and
adopting necessary measures," he said.

"Iran's official decision to under-
cut prices is a clear violation of
the last OPEC ministerial con-
ference in Abu Dhabi, which fixed
the price of Iranian light at \$34.20
and Iranian heavy at \$32.30" Mr.
Abdel Karim said.

"The latest OPEC decision to
unify light benchmark price at \$34
was one of the most difficult in its
history," Mr. Abdel Karim added.

"It required sacrifices on the part
of most members to support some
members whose exports declined
in a way affecting their economic
and political stability," he said.

Iran this month twice shaved a
dollar from the prices agreed by
OPEC, according to industry sources.

"Declines in January were
again widespread with the largest
drops occurring in the production
of autos, construction supplies and

U.S. output declines by 3%

WASHINGTON (A.P.) — Pro-
duction at factories and mines in
the United States fell 3 per cent in
January — the biggest drop since
spring 1980 and an indication the
recession was still deepening last
month, according to new govern-
ment figures.

Production cutbacks have acc-
elerated in recent months after a
long period of sluggish sales left
many industries with big stocks
of unsold goods. And the

government reported last week
that retail sales fell 1.1 per cent
in January, leaving the sales rate barely above the level of
one year earlier.

On the other hand, the gov-
ernment also reported last week
that U.S. companies' inventory
backlogs declined 0.4 per cent in
December, the first drop since the
1975 recession. And that decline
indicated that businesses were

whittling down their stocks, a nec-
essary step before full production
could be resumed and laid-off
workers called back.

Many economists, including
those in the administration, expect
at least modest economic recovery
after spring. But they also say the
unemployment rate could rise
above January's 8.5 per cent before
the year is over.

The new Federal Reserve rep-
ort said January was another bad
month for the severely troubled
U.S. auto industry.

"Auto assemblies, at a sea-
sonally adjusted annual rate of 3.6
million units — the lowest rate in
more than two decades — were
about 22 per cent below the Dec-
ember rate," the report said.

As has been typical in recent
months, the only major category
that didn't decline in January was
defence and space equipment
production. Defence output rose
very slightly.

U.S. dollar loses ground

LONDON (R) — The dollar lost
ground against other major cur-
rencies on foreign exchange markets
Friday as dealers trimmed some
of its earlier gains.

The Japanese yen was especially
strong, climbing to around 230 to
the dollar from Thursday's closing
level of 235.30 on what one dealer
said was strong demand from the
United States.

The West German mark also

gained, with dealers in Frankfurt
quoting it at 2.3570 after it closed at
2.3670 Thursday.

The pound sterling and Swiss
franc also did a bit better against
the dollar as dealers reported that
the market sentiment was that the
U.S. currency might have risen too
far because of the belief that U.S.
interest rates would remain high.

Gold, which fell in New York on

EEC jobless rate up to 9.5%

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The
number of people out of work in
the European Economic Com-
munity (EEC) rose to 10.8 million
in January, 26 per cent higher than
a year earlier, the EEC statistics
office said Friday.

Dole Quotas grew by 4.5 per
cent during January, and at the

end of the month a total of 9.5 per
cent of the 10-nation community's
workforce was unemployed, the
office said.

The highest annual rises were in
West Germany, where un-
employment increased by around
50 per cent in 1981, the Benelux
countries (Belgium, Netherlands

and Luxembourg) and Britain.

The office said January rep-
resented a seasonal high for un-
employment, which broke through
the 10 million level at the end of
last year. But even seasonally ad-
justed figures showed a rise of over
one per cent compared with Dec-
ember.

Sir Kenneth said a number of
high-powered businessmen were
interested in the project, but he
declined to name them.

Offshore rigs: Dangerous quest for oil

LONDON (R) — The inter-
national search for oil by coun-
tries seeking to lessen dep-
endence on OPEC pricing and
supply policies is taking a heavy
toll in lives lost and in equipment.

Since January 1979, a dozen
rigs have sunk, capsized, collapsed
or caught fire as exploration has
pushed into deeper and more diffi-
cult international waters.

The London Institute of Under-
writers says insurance claims are
increasing in frequency and amou-
nts.

A spokesman for Lloyd's Under-
writers Association said, how-
ever, it was unlikely that any spe-
cial conditions would be attached
to rig insurance or that premiums
would rise as a result of the latest
disaster, the loss of the Ocean
Ranger exploration rig which

went down 175 miles off New-
foundland on Monday with a crew
of 84.

The Ocean Ranger, a semi-
submersible exploration platform
built in 1976 by Mitsubishi Heavy
Industries in Japan, was insured
for a total of \$86.5 million, the
Lloyd's spokesman said.

One million dollars of this insur-
ance risk was borne by its own-
ers, Ocean Drilling and Ex-
ploration Company of New Or-
leans, 60 million was placed through
an industry group, Oil Insur-
ance Ltd., and the remaining
\$25.5 million through the
International market.

Lloyd's underwriters carried
part of \$16.5 million risk, the
spokesman said.

Lloyd's register lists more than
600 mobile drilling rigs in ope-

ration or under construction aro-
und the world, drilling in places
from offshore China to the British
North Sea.

Given the number of rigs oper-
ating, the rate of losses is not
surprising, the Lloyd's spokesman
said.

The worst single oil exploration
accident occurred in March 1980,
when the Alexander Kielland cap-
sized in Norwegian North Sea
waters with the loss of 123 lives.

China, which Tuesday invited
bids from Western countries inter-
ested in exploring what industry
sources said could be a promising
offshore oil-bearing zone, lost 72
men when a rig collapsed in Bohai
Bay late in 1979.

The Ocean Ranger was seeking
oil in the Hibernia field, which

industry sources said may prove a
significant new source of crude
and help the West tilt the balance
of power in the energy market aga-
inst OPEC — the 13-member
Organisation of Petroleum Export-
ing Countries.

Oil prices rose from around
three dollars a barrel to above \$10
between 1973 and 1974, and took
off again early in 1979, when they
were around \$13 a barrel. The official
Saudi Arabian benchmark crude
rate is now \$34 a barrel, although
a world oil glut has depressed
spot market prices below this figure.

Output from countries outside
OPEC is expected to exceed pro-
duction by the organization's
members this year, for the first
time in 20 years.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Government bonds were firm Friday but trad-
ing in equities was lack lustre, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T.
index was down 0.4 at 561.8.

The strength of sterling against the dollar and the higher op-
ening in New York bonds helped push U.K. long dated government
bonds as much as 3/4 point higher. Short maturities were held back
by government broker supplies of the exchequer 13 1/4 per cent
1987 "TAP" stock but added 1/2 point on the day.

Equities were featured by firm bank shares, with Lloyds adding
13p to 483 after full year results up to expectations, dealers
added.

Changes in other leading equities rarely exceeded a penny or
two in either direction. However, Thorn firmed 10p on light
turnover helped by a shortage of paper and Turner and Newall
recovered 3p of Thursday's falls.

Blue Circle gave up a further 6p on concern over its Mexican
interests following Thursday's Mexican government decision to
allow the peso to float freely.

Sime Darby fell 2p to 63 after full year figures. Insurances were
weak, with eagle star off 6p at 372 following Thursday's wide
fluctuations.

LONDON EXCHANGE
RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for
leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the
London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.8585/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2139/42	Canadian dollars
	2.3568/78	West German marks
	2.5890/5900	Dutch guilders
	1.8785/8800	Swiss francs
	40.225/240	Belgian francs
	5.9925/75	French francs
	1260.40/90	Italian lire
	232.20/35	Japanese yen
	5.7475/90	Swedish crowns
	5.9420/40	Norwegian crowns
	7.7440/70	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	369.40/370.00	U.S. dollars

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3

BBC WORLD SERVICE

CHANNEL 6

JORDAN RADIO

VOICE OF AMERICA

21:00 Old Favourites

22:00 Close down

6:30 Korean Cartoons

6:10 Rainbow

6:20 Buck Rogers

7:20 Local Programme

7:30 Local Programme on Agriculture

8:00 News in Arabic

8:30 Arabic Series

9:40 Arabic Feature Film

11:00 News in Arabic

11:10 Arabic Feature Film Cont.

16:00 French Programme

7:00 News in French

7:45 News in Hebrew

7:45 Varieties

News in Arabic

M.A.S.H.

9:15 Doctor

9:20 Saturday/Variety Show

10:00 News in English

10:15 Feature Film: Midnight

16:00 Sign on Morning Show

17:30 News Bulletin

18:45 Morning Show

18:50 News Summary

Eternal Jerusalem

18:55 Sign off News Headlines

19:00 Pop Session

19:30 News Summary

Radiotherape

14:30 News-Bulletin

14:30 Instruments

14:30 Old Favourites

17:30 Melody Time

17:30 In Concert

18:00 News Summary

18:30 Play of the Week

19:30 News

19:30 Top Twenty

20:30 Classical Music

6:30 GMT Newsdesk 0

SPORTS

Olympics television dispute settled

LOS ANGELES (R) — A dispute which could have prevented countries in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East seeing the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles on television was settled Wednesday, a spokeswoman for the games said here.

She said a cheque for the final instalment of \$12 million to be paid by the European Broadcasting Union for the television rights was expected to arrive at the offices of the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee later Wednesday.

The union, which represent 31 countries in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, had failed to complete its total payment of \$19.8 million by the contract deadline of February 1.

The spokeswoman, Amy Collis, said the amount to be paid was never in dispute and the problem concerned very technical legal problems which she would not define.

She said Olympic officials and union representatives had three days of productive negotiations here last week and the union negotiators then left here for further

talks among themselves.

The union informed the Los Angeles committee their negotiations had led to an agreement and the final instalment was being sent from a San Francisco bank to the committee headquarters, Collis said.

The European payment of \$19.8 million was well below the sum of \$225 million paid by the ABC Television network for the

140 countries expected to attend 1988 Seoul Olympics

SEOUL, South Korea (A.P.) — South Korea expects about 140 nations to participate in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games and up to 400,000 foreign tourists to visit the country in connection with the Olympiad, a top organiser said Thursday.

Kim Yong-Shik, Chairman of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee, reported to a special Olympic committee of the National Assembly that his committee estimates the number of participating athletes at about 10,000 and the aggregate total of spectators at about four million.

In addition, about 11,000 media people are expected to cover the sports pageant and an additional 13,000 games officials, conference delegates and team officials are likely to come, Kim reported.

The Seoul games, he added, will be held from Sept. 20 through Oct. 5 in that year with 23 events to be contested.

U.S. rights.

Los Angeles Olympic officials had hoped at one time to obtain much more money for the European, North African and Middle Eastern rights by charging the countries separately.

But committee officials here said the International Olympic Committee insisted on the Los Angeles officials negotiating solely with the union.

Japan's Nakajima leads at end of 2nd round of Australian Masters Golf

MELBOURNE (A.P.) — Japan's Tommy Nakajima stole the limelight at Huntingdale on Friday in an action-packed second round of the Australian Masters Golf title.

But Victorian Bob Shearer tightened his grip on the winner's cheque. Hours after Shearer shot his second successive 70 to go to a six under the card total of 140 and a three stroke lead which he kept for the rest of the day, Nakajima electrified the gallery with his sensational round.

"Last night at the golfers' dinner I got Arnold Palmer's autograph. It made my whole day and night," he said.

The 27-year-old crashed his way through the 18 holes in a course record equaling 66.

Nakajima—christened Tommy by local golf authorities who find it hard to come to grips with his Christian name of Tsuneyuki shot an amazing nine birds in the first 15 holes on the way to equaling the record set by Sydney's Rodger Davis two years ago.

Nakajima, who started the day at five over, rapidly whittled down the effects of Thursday's 78, despite bogeys at the ninth and 17th.

Nakajima, who started the day at five over, rapidly whittled down the effects of Thursday's 78, despite bogeys at the ninth and 17th.

At the ninth he hooked his second shot into the trees while at the 17th his tee shot went into the rough on the right of the fairway.

Through an interpreter Nakajima, who lives close to Tokyo, gave a unique explanation for his remarkable round.

"Last night at the golfers' dinner I got Arnold Palmer's autograph. It made my whole day and night," he said.

The meeting of the pair Thursday night was a happier event for Nakajima than their only previous association—when they played the last round of the 1978 British Open at St. Andrews and Nakajima putted into a bunker.

For Shearer, his sights are set on bridging a five-year home town winning drought.

On his form in the first two rounds, Shearer only needs to maintain Friday's consistency to win his first major tournament in Melbourne since 1977, when he took out the Colgate Champion of Champions at Victoria course.

There is no doubt Shearer is the in-form player of the high class Masters field—his runner-up role in the Victorian Open at Met-

ropolitan last week proved that.

Shearer did not put a foot wrong Friday and was the only player in the top bracket who did not have a lapse at some stage.

His three-under overnight card remained that way until he birdied the seventh—and he repeated the effort at the 10th.

By the time he reached the 13th, West Australian Lyndsay Stephen and Japan's Akira Yabe were up with him on five under. Stephen dropped out of the race at the next while Yabe held on until the 15th.

He had a number of two putts, some from 48 and 64 metres, and was one of a number of players who said the greens were a lot better than Thursday, although still a little bumpy.

Stephen had a frustrating up and down round which saw him slum from his overnight three under to one under before he recovered to finish with a two round total of 143.

Yabe stayed on his overnight two under until the 10th when he gained some ground before dropping back on the 17th.

He shared the same mark with Noel Ratcliffe (New South Wales), American Mike Colando and Queensland's Mike Ferguson.

The cry most often heard at the bridge table is an anguished: "Why didn't you return my suit, partner?"

But blindly continuing partner's suit can be as bad as not returning it at all!

An orthodox auction led to a reasonable three no trump contract.

West led the ten of spades, and declarer was pleased with his dummy. Even if he had to lose two diamond tricks, it seemed the nine tricks would not be a major problem.

Declarer won the opening lead in hand and ran the eight of diamonds to East's

suit.

Note that it does not help South to play the king of hearts on the nine. West can counter that by allowing the king to win, and again the declarer must come to three heart tricks. Declarer is doomed to defeat no matter what he tries.

West, and dummy's jack wins the trick. When East gets in with the ace of diamonds, he continues with the queen of hearts. Whether or not declarer covers, the defenders must come to three tricks in the suit. With the two diamond tricks already in the bank, that does

mean down one.

South to play the king of hearts on the nine. West can counter that by allowing the king to win, and again the declarer must come to three heart tricks. Declarer is doomed to defeat no matter what he tries.

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South to play the king of hearts on the nine. West can counter that by allowing the king to win, and again the declarer must come to three heart tricks. Declarer is doomed to defeat no matter what he tries.

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FEATURES

No one troubles 'little America' in Italy

By Michael Sheridan
Reuters

NAPLES — They call it "little America," the stretch of coastline north of Naples, Italy's most violent city. The name is well-chosen for the area is home for some 8,000 Americans attached to NATO military bases here.

Since the kidnapping of U.S. Brig.-Gen. James Dozier by extremists Red Brigades guerrillas in the northern city of Verona last December, Americans in Italy have been warned of the perils of political violence.

Gen. Dozier, freed by Italian police in a spectacular rescue on Jan. 28, was one of only 40 U.S. personnel in Verona, headquarters of Allied Land Forces South.

But in Naples, 5,000 men, including top officers and their families, man four key bases in an area torn by political strife and guerrilla and gang violence. Last year 234 people were killed in the city and the Red Brigades carried out a daring and successful kidnapping of a politician.

"People are more aware of the dangers and they're certainly more conscious and more alert," said a NATO spokesman at the giant Bagnoli base, a stone's throw from the teeming poverty-stricken slums of Naples.

Ever since four-star generals sat down with Mafia chieftains in 1943 to work out how to control the liberated areas of southern Italy, the relationship between

Americans and Italians there has been filled with contradictions.

In Naples, an American family

can go to the "P.X." or military

stores for hot dogs, sweet corn,

hamburgers or stereo gear. For

entertainment, there's the prime

rib special in the officers' dining

room on Saturdays and the sou-

thern fried chicken special or the

happy hour in the main NATO bar

on Fridays.

The Harry S. Truman Masonic Lodge No. 649 meets twice a month and the Allied Women's Golf Association can be found

every Thursday morning on the

golf course.

American servicemen say the

myth of "rich Americans" occu-

pying the best housing in the re-

gion has long been outdated by

rampant Italian inflation.

Only top officers live on the

Posillipo Peninsula and the chic

downtown areas where the moon-

eyed and frightened Neopolitan

middle classes dwell behind bar-

red doors, protected by body-

guards and prowling watchdogs.

Service rent allowances have

driven most G.I.'s out of town to

the northern strip of coast where

whole settlements of military fam-

ilies have grown up in sprawling concrete apartment blocks that mar the crystal blue sealine.

"You've got to realize that many of these guys are of fairly low educational standards. They get sent here, not speaking the language and they want to live near people who are familiar. The result is you've got whole towers and streets full of G.I.'s," said one NATO officer.

With threats of the Red Bri-

gades against NATO, which the brigades describe as the "Pulsing heart of counter-revolutionary imperialism," officers have been told to take precautions.

But most Neopolitans, accord-

ing to local journalists, see the U.S. presence as a sign of pro-

sperity and security. "We don't

give a damn about the Red Bri-

gades or NATO," confided a cab

driver outside the base, "but we

know when there's money to be

made and that's what feeds your

family."

Security sources say, however,

that the Dozier kidnapping has

signaled an intensive re-

examination of security, which

many military men feel could be

more rigorous.

The four NATO bases are:

Headquarters Allied Forces South-

ern Europe, Headquarters Allied

Naval Forces Southern Europe,

Naval Striking and Support

Forces Southern Europe, and

Headquarters Allied Air Forces

Southern Europe.

In addition, the American Sixth Fleet is based in Naples and its sister port, Gaeta.

Officials will make no comment on security measures. But according to eyewitnesses interviewed in Naples, protection of top officers was stepped up dramatically after the Dozier kid-

naping.

One admiral, previously guarded by a solitary detective overnight at his family house on the expansive Posillipo Peninsula, was now followed everywhere by two carloads of armed police who watched over him 24 hours a day, they said.

Officials will acknowledge privately that the security problem is insoluble. Every officer lives off base in private accommodation and most drive to and from work in full uniform.

"If the Red Brigades wanted to pick a target at random they would have no problem because the Americans live in their own closed little world," said a Naples police officer.

Security measures at the bases themselves are tight. Machine-guns nests bar the way at road entrances and everyone entering is rigorously checked by U.S. servicemen and Italian Carabinieri paramilitary police.

Relations with the Communist mayor of the city, where thousands of people still live in appalling conditions after the Nov. 1980 earthquake, are good but the political volatility of the area has not left the military untouched.

Italian employees of the naval support activity base, furious at plans by the Americans to withdraw from their previously untouched pay packets, have picketed the base and caused several heated confrontations with G.I.'s.

The Naples column of the Red Brigades, which last summer kidnapped Christian Democratic politician Ciro Cirillo and held him to ransom, has not been greatly affected by a recent wave of arrests that has struck its northern comrades.

But for one enormous U.S. navy sailor, happily drinking beer in a red-lit "American" bar down by the port, they were not a problem. "Man, I'm more scared of these guys than wanna shake you down for every last cent for a beer and a woman," he complained loudly.

New York vs. U.N.

By Michael Littlejohns
Reuters

ated a special committee to deal with relations with the host country. Its meetings often become sessions of mutual recrimination, with delegates from abroad castigating the city and American members scolding their foreign colleagues for not observing local rules.

The debate for and against New York had some of its liveliest moments when the late Janil Baroody, a legend in his own time, was the delegate of Saudi Arabia.

In a notable intervention on Nov. 9, 1973, Mr. Baroody said in the General Assembly's budgetary committee that member states were sacrificing their diplomats by sending them to New York, where they must live on hamburger and "adulterated hot dogs" and breathe polluted air.

A frequent advocate of the transfer of the headquarters, he said U.S. secretariat staff ought not to have to pay retail sales taxes and real estate taxes. "Either New York wants us, or it does not," he said.

When Mark Evans, for the U.S. mission, asserted that the U.N. was living on the bounty of the United States, which totals 25 percent of its hills, Mr. Baroody rejoined that he and his mission had spent at least one million dollars in the city.

The U.N. was set up in the United States in the first place, in part because member states wanted to obtain a deep national commitment by Washington to the fledgling organization.

The Soviet Union was a principal supporter of the decision to headquartered in New York after some other cities, including San Francisco, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, were canvassed.

No one however, has said much to the city side about the wealth that the U.N. pours into New York.

It has been estimated that the city benefits by \$650 million a year from the U.N. presence.

It has often been proposed that the General Assembly, which ordinarily meets for only about three months of the year, be convened in another country.

Officials say that is unlikely to happen either.

New York is widely believed to be about the only city in the world with enough hotel space to accommodate the thousands of delegates and others who gather for the assembly sessions.

El Salvador: Wooing tourists who prefer to stay away

By Colin McSevey
Reuters

SAN SALVADOR — In any list of the world's most daunting jobs those of Abraham Mendez and his colleagues at El Salvador's National Tourism Institute would surely come near the top.

Their task is to encourage foreigners to holiday in a land now best known abroad for its daily round of indiscriminate political killings, bomb blasts and gunbattles between government soldiers and leftist guerrillas.

"There is no denying that we have an image problem but I am confident we are at last beginning to halt the slump in the number of visitors to El Salvador," said Mr. Mendez, the institute's deputy general manager.

The enormity of their task is reflected in the statistics graph of their latest bulletin which resembles the ones in cartoons that plummet out of sight.

In 1978, before the violence mounted, 300,000 people visited El Salvador while provisional figures for 1981 show that this figure has fallen to only 60,000.

But fewer than 4,000 Americans with their all important dollars arrived for holidays in El Salvador last year and no change in the trend is expected this year.

Mr. Mendez said his country had received a raw deal from the international media and said that no foreign tourist had been killed or holiday centre attacked by guerrillas since the upsurge of violence began.

"You have a greater chance of being killed walking down a New

York street at night but that doesn't prevent tourists from going there," said Mr. Mendez, surrounded by wallposters extolling the beauty of El Salvador.

The tourist attractions of this country with its volcanoes, Mayan ruins, tropical climate and Pacific beaches are obvious.

El Salvador is also well placed

between the lucrative North and South American markets with about eight international airlines passing through the country's new airport.

"We are closer to the northeastern states of the U.S. than is most of California," Mr. Mendez said.

He said that the institute had turned increasingly to countries like Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela to fill at least part of the gap left by the virtual complete loss of the American market.

But he said he had not entirely given up hope of a return of U.S. vacationers and the institute is trying to persuade the state department to drop its "no-go" rating from its official travel advisory.

Mr. Mendez said the ruling, made in 1979, meant that most American insurance policies were void during the holders stay in El Salvador.

"We all know that some Americans will hardly go out their front door without checking their policies so this is obviously a blow to us," he said.

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WORLD

Reagan blames interest rates, Congress for economic slump

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has refused to predict when the U.S. economy would pull out of recession and conceded that high interest rates and congressional resistance to his policies posed serious threats to recovery. Mr. Reagan's remarks at his first press conference since he released his controversial 1983 budget contrasted with the highly optimistic economic forecasts he and his advisers have been making over the past few months.

The president, Treasury Secretary Donald Regan and Murray Weidenbaum, chairman of the council of economic advisers, have repeatedly said they expected the economy to start rebounding this spring and grow vigorously in the summer and autumn.

But in a televised 42-minute press conference Thursday, Mr. Reagan refused to speculate on exactly when the recovery would begin or when interest rates would start falling.

"I'm just not going to be pinned down on a date," he said.

U.S. interest rates, which rose to 17 per cent this week, have been a constant source of irritation to America's allies who have complained that money is being attracted away from their economies into the United States. "High interest rates present the greatest single threat today a healthy, lasting recovery," the president said.

Many critics have blamed the high interest rates on the Federal Reserve's tight, anti-inflationary monetary policy.

But Mr. Reagan took pains to express confidence in the independent central bank and its ability

to manage, Paul Volcker, with whom he conferred on Monday.

"I have confidence in the announced policies of the Federal Reserve Board," he said.

The president was less kind to Congress, which has given his \$757.6 billion budget for the 1983 financial year a chilly reception since it was proposed nearly two weeks ago.

Mr. Reagan said it would be foolish to tamper with his programme by raising taxes or reducing defence spending plans, suggestions being seriously explored by members of Congress concerned about the projected deficit of \$91.5 billion for next year.

The president also said that if Congress balked at his request for \$27 billion in cuts in social and other government programmes this year "they can themselves set back the recover."

Mr. Reagan reiterated his belief that his sweeping programme of tax and budget cuts would eventually revive the economy.

He admitted that he and his advisers were "caught by surprise" by the current recession, which has turned out to be considerably more severe than most economists had been predicting.

But he also said he and his advisers had recently become "cautiously optimistic" about where the U.S. economy was headed.

"We would rather err on the side of caution than err on the side of too much optimism," he said.

The only new economic initiative presented by Mr. Reagan was the announcement that he would soon create a special panel of industry and business experts to find ways to cut the cost of gov-

ernment.

While economic issues dominated the press conference, the president also fielded several questions on foreign policy.

He brushed aside a question on whether he was considering sending U.S. combat troops to El Salvador, where leftist guerrillas are fighting the Washington-backed government.

"There are no plans to send American combat troops into action anywhere in the world," he said.

Pressed to say what it would take for the United States to become directly involved militarily, Mr. Reagan joked: "Well, maybe if they dropped a bomb on the White House I might get mad."

The president sidestepped all other questions on El Salvador and nearby Nicaragua by saying he would make a speech on that subject in Washington next week before the Organisation of American States (OAS).

The president was also asked what the United States planned to do about Poland, where martial law was imposed last Dec. 13, and about Poland's debt problems.

Last month the U.S. government agreed to pay banks here \$71 million they were owed by Poland in January. At the same time the administration decided not to declare Poland in default on those debts.

He said no decision had been taken yet on what would be done if Poland could not meet its debt obligations in February.

Mr. Reagan also said he was holding back on declaring Poland in default now because to do so "would only make Poland more dependent on the Soviet Union."

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"Of course," he added, "this is a revolution in the administrative structure, not a revolution against anyone," an effort to reassure possibly tens of thousands of government and party functionaries that they won't get the axe for political reasons.

"We now are engaging in reform of our system," Mr. Deng said. "We must do away with bureaucracy, overlapping and overstaffing."



Deng stages
reappearance

PEKING (A.P.) — Proclaiming a new "revolution," China's former leader Deng Xiaoping appeared securely back in the political arena Friday, pushing for an ambitious overhaul of the world's biggest bureaucracy.

After a five-week absence from public view, Mr. Deng made a grand reappearance Thursday, took to the bustings in a Moscow metro station collapsed on Wednesday, informed Soviet sources said Friday.

There has been no official statement on the death toll, but according to unconfirmed reports between 15 and 30 people died when an escalator in a Moscow metro station collapsed on Wednesday.

Some travellers were plunged into the moving escalator machinery or piled on top of each other in a deep shaft beneath the station, the sources said.

The accident occurred at the Aviamotornaya underground station in the east of the city. Like most parts of the metro, the station is designed to serve as a bomb shelter and is far below the surface.

The escalators to these stations are steep and fast-moving by Western standards and may be over 100 metres long.

The accident was mentioned in a Moscow newspaper Thursday night. It gave no details of the casualties.

When the meeting reopened on Feb. 9, NATO and other Western officials said no progress could be made until martial law was lifted in Poland.

Spanish coup plotters' trial opens

MADRID (R) — The court martial of 32 Spanish officers and one civilian alleged to have been involved in an abortive military coup last year opened at a military barracks Friday amid strict security.

About 500 people including the 17-man military tribunal, defence lawyers, prosecution, journalists and the accused with their relatives, packed the converted barracks that is serving as a courtroom.

Outside the makeshift courthouse in the army's cartography service barracks on the outskirts of Madrid, heavily armed troops

and para-military Civil Guards patrolled the area and national police guarded access roads beyond the perimeter wall.

Security forces carried out rigorous identity and metal detector checks on all people attending the trial and military police stood guard inside the building.

The trial is expected to last between 35 and 40 days.

Salisbury coalition crumbles

SALISBURY (R) — One of two remaining ZAPU Party ministers in Zimbabwe's crumbling coalition said Friday he had decided to quit following the dismissal of party leader Joshua Nkomo over coup plot allegations, the national news agency Ziana reported.

It quoted Public Works Minister Clement Muchachii as saying he believed that ZAPU ministers had entered the coalition cabinet as a party so must leave as a party.

"Definitely you will not find me here on Monday," he said in an interview in his office.

One remaining ZAPU minister and two deputy ministers have yet to declare their positions as Zim-

babu's arms scandal continues to unfold.

Mr. Nkomo, minister without portfolio, Transport Minister Josiah Chimanamo, Natural Resources Minister Joseph Msika and a ZAPU deputy minister were fired following the discovery of large amounts of illicit weapons on farms connected with ZAPU.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe accused them of treachery, but stressed that all ZAPU members were not implicated. He said the remaining ZAPU ministers in the 26-man coalition — Mr. Muchachii and Roads Minister Daniel Ngwenya and two ZAPU deputy ministers were free to stay or leave as they or their party wished.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Reagan denies Haig, Weinberger differ on Mideast policy

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan said Thursday there were no policy differences on the Middle East between Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Mr. Reagan told a press conference that the two men were in touch with each other during separate foreign trips last week.

Prune Minister Robert Mugabe particularly on the Weinberger trip to three Arab countries, and the defence secretary appeared to be taking a tougher line than Mr. Haig towards Israel and a more conciliatory approach to Arabs. Apparently referring to these reports, the president said that because of the "overblown way" in which the two trips were treated, he had reassured Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin about U.S. policy. In Los Angeles, Mr. Weinberger told a press conference that reports of a feud between him and Mr. Haig were "just plain wrong."

Sharon: Syria prepares for war

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon has said Syria was preparing for war. "Syria is preparing for war and I am not talking about rumours but concrete facts," Mr. Sharon told a television interviewer. But he did not elaborate. Asked whether the situation in Lebanon warranted an Israeli attack, Mr. Sharon said: "The situation in Lebanon is very sensitive and delicate and calls for permanent alert and a careful approach."

Kahane serves in Israeli army

TEL AVIV (R) — Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of an extremist Jewish organisation who was once imprisoned for anti-Arab activities, is serving with the Israeli army in the occupied West Bank, according to a military spokesman. The rabbi, who founded the Jewish Defence League in the United States several years ago, is serving as a private with a reserve unit stationed in Ramallah. He is an American television crew complained to the authorities that Rabbi Kahane, armed with an M-16 assault rifle, confiscated a video cassette showing a violent demonstration by Palestinians Wednesday.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Austrian named chief of human rights

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Senior Austrian diplomat Kurt Herndl was Thursday named director of the U.N. Human Rights Commission whose chief quit last week in a dispute over naming countries for rights violations. Mr. Herndl, 49, served with the U.N. secretariat for eight years until 1977 when he became head of the Austrian foreign ministry's international law department. He will succeed Theodor van Boven, who was regarded by U.N. officials as an activist on human rights. They said Mr. van Boven had made statements "not wholly in keeping with his status" as an international civil servant. The 47-year-old Dutch national said he was resigning due to "major differences of policy" with the New York U.N. leadership. Mr. Herndl will take over when Mr. van Boven's contract expires at the end of April.

Peking denies agreement on Hong Kong

PEKING (R) — The Chinese foreign ministry Thursday described as "completely groundless" a report that China and Britain had agreed to sign a friendship treaty over the future of Hong Kong. A Hong Kong newspaper, the independent financial daily *Tsai Chin Yat Pao*, said on Monday that China and Britain had agreed in principle to a treaty under which the British would continue to govern Hong Kong after existing leases expire.

Argentines go against penguin slaughter

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine conservationists are rallying to block a plan to kill 48,000 penguins a year in Patagonia by a firm making gloves and other products. The Wildlife Fund for Argentina has called on the governor of the southern province of Chubut not to let the firm, Penguin Hodine, set up a factory in the area. The company wants to build a \$120,000 plant where 48,000 penguins would be processed each year for the next three years. Local newspapers said it had asked the central government to repeat a decree banning the killing of penguins. The coast of Chubut Province, part of the vast Patagonia plateau, is one of the world's largest reserves of penguins, seals and sea elephants.

3 arrested in Nigeria were not assassins

LAGOS (R) — Three people arrested when Pope John Paul visited Kaduna, in northern Nigeria, had not been planning to assassinate the pontiff, the Nigerian president's press secretary said Thursday. Charles Igbo said in a statement that the arrest of two men and a woman — one man with a pistol and ammunition — had no connection with the Pope's visit. He said they were bandits who had been caught at a regular police checkpoint three days before the Pope's visit on the first leg of his four-nation West African tour. They escaped from custody and took advantage of the security concentrating on the Pope's trip to Kaduna on Sunday to try to flee. But an alert taxi-driver tipped off the police. The three were arrested when the Pope was celebrating mass before some 500,000 people.

Belgium court frees bus hijacker

BRUSSELS (R) — A Belgian court Thursday freed a young man who hijacked a school bus and held 16 children hostage more than a year ago in protest against what he called social injustice in Belgium. The jury decided that Michael Stree, a 22-year-old unemployed mechanic, was not guilty because he had acted under an "irresistible impulse." The prosecution had demanded a three-year suspended prison sentence. Mr. Stree and two other jobless teenagers seized a school bus in November 1980 in the southern Belgian town of Viersen. They forced the driver at gun-point to drive to the television centre in Brussels where they demanded air time to denounce social conditions and unemployment rate in the European Economic Community. Mr. Stree, who has already spent 15 months in jail, told the court he regretted his action. "I was at the end of my tether. I had enough," he said, adding social injustice and family pressures had driven him to act. His accomplices were too young to be charged.

Manipur rebels kill 20 Indian soldiers

NEW DELHI (A.P.) — Twenty Indian army soldiers were killed and four injured Friday in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur by insurgents identified by police as members of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the United News of India reported. The victims were members of the 21st Gurkha Regiment. It was not immediately clear whether all were Nepalese-born mercenaries who usually are recruited into the Gurkha units of the Indian army. The report said the ambush occurred about 30 kilometres northeast of Imphal, the state capital, near Ukhra where the soldiers were posted. Manipur has been troubled since 1978 by an armed tribal insurgency demanding independence from India. Scores have died in clashes between Indian security forces and the rebels.

Hilton arsonist sentenced for life

LAS VEGAS (R) — Philip Cline, a waiter, was sentenced Wednesday to life imprisonment for the murder of eight people who died in a fire in the giant Las Vegas Hilton hotel. The jury, which found 23-year-old Cline guilty of murder last month, ordered the sentence to be passed on each of the eight counts. Under Nevada state law, it could still be commuted after he has spent 15 years in prison. The prosecution said at his trial that Mr. Cline started the fire last February so he could become a hero by putting it out. Mr. Cline said he started the fire accidentally when he dropped a marijuanna cigarette while engaged in a homosexual act with a man he knew only as Joe.

Disunity or snub, Kaduna Muslims disappoint Pope

Minutes before the Pope was to arrive at Kaduna 640 kilometres northeast of here — Nigerian Television put away its cameras, the band packed up its instruments and the honour guard returned to its barracks.

"I do not understand it," Nero Irogawo, Kaduna State protocol chief kept saying.

He said: "The band was here. The police were here. The refreshments were all ready. There was a committee, but nobody came. Nobody. It is very strange."

Vatican officials at first said the meeting had been canceled for "security reasons." Later, the Rev. Romeo Piancarilli, the chief Vatican press officer, said that "the meeting had been planned and the place established beforehand, but for reasons not depending on the Holy Father, it did not take place."

The Rev. Kenyay said that by evangelisation, the Pope means Roman Catholics should preach the gospel. "But to the Muslims it takes on the connotation of crusading, of militantly going after converts."

On the other hand, Charles Williams, a Nigerian Methodist layman who is secretary of the Christian Council of Nigeria, thinks it likely there was a "serious falling out" among Nigeria's various Muslim sects, the Zanzaratu, the Ansar-ud-Din, the Jumatu Islamya and others.

He speculated they could not get together on who should greet the Pope and make the Muslim rejoinder.

"There is so much disagreement, they cannot go on the Holy Pilgrimage to Mecca," Mr. Williams said, adding there had been "bloodshed in the past in the north because of these rivalries."

At Kaduna state a single religious leader of Nigeria's 30 million-strong Muslim community — a third of this most populous nation in Africa — showed up for the meeting.

The Pope instead delivered his message at an airport waiting room to the governor of Kaduna State, a Muslim, and his retinue so that through them his message could be transmitted to the population of the heavily Muslim north.

His message was that the two great religions must work together in areas of human rights, public health and religious freedom — and especially in the establishment of religious schools taken over by the government after the 1967-70 Biafran war.

In that conflict, the federal government crushed the breakaway state of Biafra with the help of a food blockade said to have cost the lives of one million Biafran tribesmen, residents of the predominantly Catholic east.

The Pope visited Ibadan the day before his trip to the north and preached against polygamy, still widely practised here, even among some Catholics.

The Rev. Robert Kilbridge, a missionary from Chicago teaching at the Dominican seminary in the northern city of Ibadan, suggested the pontiff's theme might have been offensive to the Muslims, considering the Koran speaks in favour of at least four wives and most Muslim clerics in the north have at least that many.

"The fallout of that speech could have reached here," he said.

Muslim leaders are known to be uneasy about the growth of the Catholic Church in the north — some missionaries boast about with the slogan: "The north is no longer Muslim."

Attesting to that growth, the Dominican seminary in Ibadan is now preparing 17 candidates for the priesthood, while the nearby St. Peter and Paul seminary, which the Pope visited, has more than 100 students.

Father Frank Cusimano, a Jesuit who arrived in a village near Ibadan only a few weeks ago from Buffalo, N.Y., counts a dozen converts already. But most conversions begin with a marriage outside of the traditional faith."

Other Christian sects in the north also have been making gains, especially the Pentecostal, Assemblies of God and Celestial churches, charismatic groups whose great appeal here is their emotional hand-clapping, shouting prayer meetings.

"These groups recognise the Pope as their leader," pointed out the Rev. Sean O'Neill, who came to Africa 42 years ago from his native County Cork, Ireland.

Many of the charismatics' leaders came to the Pope's mass at Ibadan Monday arrayed in gold miteres and bronze croziers usually associated with Roman Catholic bishops.

The Rev. O'Neill said the Muslims clergy does "not like losing families and then whole villages to these evangelicals."

